environmental studies, etc. due to which the Company's Order book position improved considerably.

(iii) *Long-term Plans:*

- Strategic alliance with large Indian Companies, State Government Organisations, Multi-national Companies
- Underground mine construction on turn-key basis
- increase in contractual jobs
- commercial mining of selected minerals
- diversification into hi-tech areas.

पंजाब के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रें में बड़े उद्योगों की स्थापना

*408. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार बेरोजगारी दूर करने के उद्देश्य से पंजाब के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में बड़े उद्योग स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन): (क) से (ग) सरकार ने, उदारीकृत नई औद्योगिक नीति के अंतर्गत अधिकतर उद्योगों को लाइसेंसमुक्त कर दिया है और उद्योग के स्थापना स्थल संबंधी निर्णय उद्यमियों के विवेक पर छोड़ दिया है। इस नई नीति के परिणामस्वरूप, 1.8.91 से 31.3.97 की अवधि में पंजाब राज्य में बड़े और मझौले उद्योगों हेतु कुल 1476 औद्योगिक उद्यमी ज्ञापन दायर किये गये हैं इनमें कुल निवेश 18,467 करोड़ रुपये का होगा और इनके अंतर्गत 3.76 लाख अतिरिक्त रोजगारों की संभवना है। उपर्युक्त उद्यमी ज्ञापनों में से 170 औद्योगिक उद्यमी ज्ञापन पंजाब के तीन सीमावर्ती जिलों के लिए दायर किये गये हैं। इन ज्ञापनों में 1829 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश और 31000 से अधिक संभावित रोजगारों का प्रस्ताव है।

Mining Activities in Bailadila

*409. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining activities in Bailadila had stopped in March, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to start mining activity and help the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) The mining activities in Bailadila had stopped for a period of 18 working days from 27.2.97 to 19.3.97.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh State Forest Department directed NMDC to stop its mining activities in Bailadila in compliance of an order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court banning non-forest activities in the forest area except with the permission of the concerned authority.

(c) After obtaining necessary clearance from the State Government and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, working permission for operating the mines had been obtained on 19.3.1997 and mining operations were recommended with effect from 20.3.97.

Development of ceramic complex in Andhra Pradesh

*410. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up/ develop ceramic complex in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Ceramic Industry is a delicensed industry. Entrepreneurs are free to set up any unit pertaining to Ceramic Industry in the country based on their commercial judgement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Utilisation of Funds Released for the Development of the Hill areas of Uttar Pradesh

*411. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds given by the Planning Commission to the U.P. Government for the development of hill areas, roads etc. for the year 1997-98;

(b) the amount of funds released during the last three years and progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that the amount have not been utilised fully during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Amount of Special Central Assistance allocated by the Planning Commission to the UP Government for the development of Hill Areas for the year 1997-98 stands at Rs. 225 crore - Rs. 217.07 crore from HADP and Rs. 7.93 crore from other Special Area Programme.

(b) The amount of Special Central Assistance released during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 stands at Rs. 197.06 crores, Rs. 225.00 crores and Rs. 225.00 crores respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up food Processing Industries in Uttar Pradesh

*412. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposals to set-up more food processing units in that State; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and un-organised sectors. Hence, the information relating to the number of food processing industries in the country, and Statewise, is not maintained centrally.

According to the Annual Survey of India (Ministry of Planning) for the year 1993-94, there were 2697 factories manufacturing food and beverages, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Ministry does not set up food processing units directly in any State. However, the Ministry under its plan schemes extends financial assistance to State Govt. Organisations etc. for setting up/expansion/ modernisation of food processing units.

Exploration Activity of MECL

*413. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the exploration activity of Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited with respect to Coal;

(b) to what applied use are the findings of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited put by the relevant Coal companies; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost more exploration in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) is carrying out exploration in respect of coal in the command area of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, etc.

MECL is carrying out exploration for Coal in Virgin areas also. As a result of exploration efforts by MECL, Coal Reserves of over 49 Billion Tonnes in over 370 blocks have been established.

(b) The exploration taken up by MECL on behalf of Ministry of Coal have increased the resource base in Coal India Lmited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited command areas. This helped in increasing the production of coal from 73 million tonnes annually during 1973-74 to a level of over 250 million tonnes in 1995-96.